

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 /008 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:DPREHFUSS:BF

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S/CPR - HDAVIS (DRAFT)

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R 020101Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, SG, US

SUBJECT: SENEGALESE EMBASSY CHAUFFEUR INVOLVED IN FATAL
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

REF: STATE 46271

1. ON FEBRUARY 27 IN DEPARTMENT (S/CPR) AMBASSADOR
COULBARY, AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL, HAMPTON DAVIS, MR. ANDERSON
OF SURREY, KARASIK, AND MORSE, DESK OFFICER AND GOS EMBOFF
DISCUSSED FATAL ACCIDENT.

2. COULBARY EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ON MATTER. HE WAS
CONCERNED ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS BEREAVED FAMILY,
TOWARDS EMPLOYEE CHAUFFEUR RUMINGAN AND OVERALL SENEGALESE
EMBASSY/GOS OBLIGATION FOR ACCIDENT, PAYMENTS, PUBLICITY
ALREADY GENERATED AND FUTURE PUBLICITY, ETC. HE ASKED
ABOUT DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY ON QUESTION AND SOUGHT
GUIDANCE.

3. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION OF MATTER FOLLOWING POINTS
WERE BROUGHT OUT:

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(A) THE CAR WAS NOT INSURED.

(B) CHAUFFEUR WAS LOCALLY HIRED; HE HAS NO TENURE WITH GOS.

(C) CHAUFFEUR HAS FULL IMMUNITY.

(D) THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL REQUEST BY COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR WAIVER OF IMMUNITY, BUT, ROCKWELL TOLD COULBARY, S/CPR EXPECTED A FORMAL REQUEST.

(E) AVAILABILITY TO CHAUFFEUR OF OFFICIAL ACTS AS A DEFENSE, ASSUMING DISMISSAL BY EMBASSY AND SUBSEQUENT ARREST AND PROSECUTION BY VIRGINIA AUTHORITIES IS UNCLEAR.

(F) S/CPR SUGGESTED BEST WAY TO MEET ISSUE WOULD BE TO WAIVE CHAUFFEUR'S IMMUNITY IN CASE.

(G) DECEASED'S PARENTS HAVE STATUTORY REMEDY IN VIRGINIA WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION LAW. (DECEASED WAS UNMARRIED.)

(H) S/CPR SUGGESTED GOS MIGHT CONSIDER A VOLUNTARY PAYMENT OF INDEMNITY, 10-25,000 DOLS WAS SUGGESTED AS POSSIBILITY APPROPRIATE RANGE OF PAYMENT.

(I) S/CPR SUGGESTED COULBARY'S ATTENDANCE AT FUNERAL, FLOWERS, LETTER OF SYMPATHY FROM GOS EMBASSY WOULD PROBABLY HELP CREATE FAVORABLE IMAGE. THIS PROBABLY COULD BE DONE WITHOUT ASSUMING ANY RESPONSIBILITY OF GUILT.

4. COULBARY SAID HE WOULD MAKE FULL REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT ON SUBJECT. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE.

5. DEPARTMENT INFORMED BY GOS EMBASSY WASHINGTON THAT AMBASSADOR COULBARY SENT CHECK OF 1500 DOLS
TO FAMILY. INGERSOLL

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